that the Commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed. The functions of the proposed Commission would include:

- tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.
- frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.
- study or cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.
- suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Promotion and development of historical and religious culture

†761. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national policy has been formulated or proposed to be formulated by Government for the promotion and development of historical and religious culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the financial allocations made therefor by Government during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) A National Committee for drafting a National Culture Policy was constituted on 11.11.2006. The term of the Committee was extended upto 30.6.2008. The Committee has deliberated on the issue. The members have put forth various views and the same are under consideration.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

National Commission for Heritage

762. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would set up a National Commission for Heritage to promote and protect heritage sites across the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government would disband the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) after the formation of commission; and

(d) if not, the reasons for having two identical establishments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Cabinet has approved the proposal of introduction of the National Commission of Heritage Sites Bill, 2009 in the current Session of Rajya Sabha.

(c) and (d) It is not envisaged to disband the archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the purposes, focus and functions of ASI and the proposed National Commission on Heritage sites are different and complementary.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.